

Albemarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership (APNEP)
March 2022

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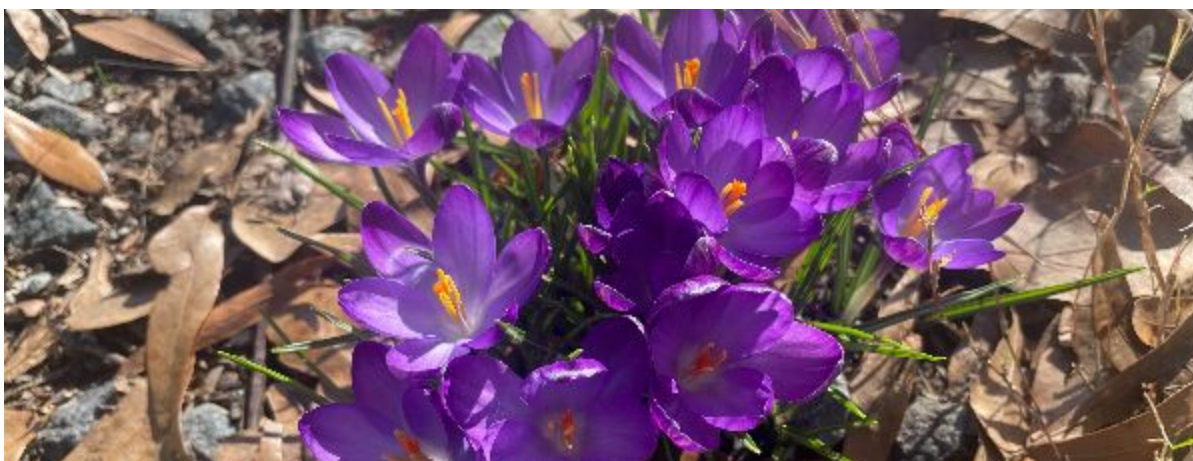
Albemarle - Pamlico

National Estuary Partnership

Sound Stories



March 2022

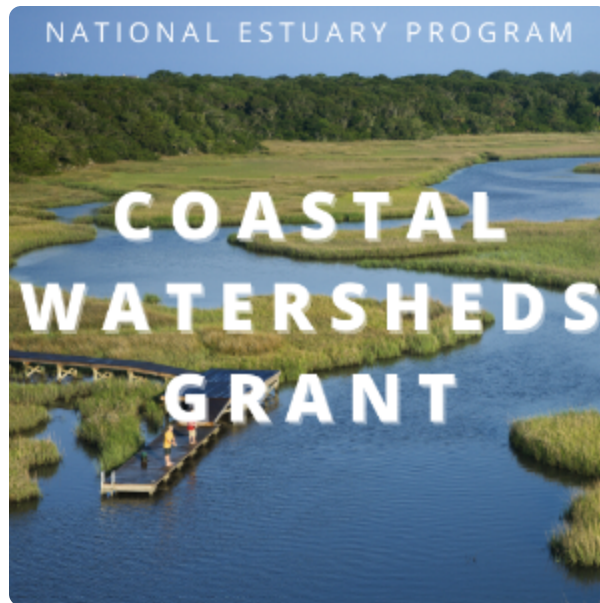


As we move into warmer months, the team at APNEP is gearing up for some exciting initiatives across our region. The APNEP-funded [Shad in the Classroom program](#), which teaches students important environmental science concepts while they gain hands-on experience raising American shad from eggs to releasable fry, will be taking place this April. This collaborative effort is led by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and has been supported by APNEP since 2011. APNEP will also be leading continued [submerged aquatic vegetation \(SAV\) mapping and monitoring efforts](#) in our estuaries this spring that will contribute to a better understanding of this crucial habitat.

We would also like to invite organizations located in the Albemarle-Pamlico region to apply for the [2022 National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant](#) funded by the EPA and administered by [Restore America's Estuaries](#). The RFP is now open and Letters of Intent are due May 27th. Learn more about the grant focus and details in the newsletter below, and contact our team at apnep@ncdenr.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

APNEP News



2022 National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant RFP Now Open

Restore America's Estuaries is pleased to announce the availability of the EPA-funded [2022 National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant \(NEP CWG\) Request for Proposals](#). NEP CWG is a nationally competitive grants program designed to support projects that address urgent and challenging issues threatening the well-being of coastal and estuarine areas within determined estuaries of national significance. Applicants will need a letter of acknowledgment from APNEP as the local National Estuary Program. Letters of Intent are due by May 27.

[Learn more and apply](#)



APNEP-funded Study Improves Understanding of Water Quality Needed for SAV Habitat

We're excited to announce that the final report from an APNEP-funded project with the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences to evaluate water quality metrics for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) protection in the Albemarle-Pamlico estuary [has now been published](#). The project lead, Dr. Nathan Hall, is a member of the [APNEP Water Resources Monitoring and Assessment Team](#) and is assisting in development of APNEP's water quality monitoring plan. The goal of Dr. Hall's project was to better understand what levels of chlorophyll *a* and turbidity in the estuary allow enough light through the water column for SAV growth. When levels of these two key water quality metrics are high, water may become too murky or cloudy for light to penetrate to the SAV habitat. These findings will help inform water quality management strategies being developed by NCDEQ through the [NC Coastal Habitat Protection Plan](#) and the [NC Nutrient Criteria Development Plan](#) in support of SAV conservation. *Photo credit: UNC / UNC Endeavors.*

[View the Report](#)



Joint Fellowship in Estuarine Research

2022 APNEP-NC Sea Grant Fellow Announced

Institute of Marine Sciences! He will install arrays of low-cost, open-source sensors across coastal North Carolina marshes in order to study sediment delivery. This research will help us better understand how salt marshes respond to impacts from sea-level rise and climate change.

[Read about the fellowship](#)



Upcoming Events & Meetings

All meetings associated with APNEP's committees, Action Teams, and Monitoring & Assessment Teams are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact apnep@ncdenr.gov.

Current Grant Opportunities



- May 4: [FY2022 319\(h\) Nonpoint Source Grant Program RFP](#)
- May 26: [2022 Environmental Enhancement Grant RFP](#)
- May 27: [Letters of Intent for 2022 NEP Coastal Watersheds Grant RFP due](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund](#)
- Ongoing: [NC Sea Grant Minigrants Program](#)

[Grant details](#)

Partner Spotlight



NC Aquatic Invasive Species Partnerships Tackle Regional Issues

For Invasive Species Week this March, we highlighted partners who are working to eradicate Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), an aquatic plant species the APNEP [Submerged Aquatic Vegetation \(SAV\) Team](#) has been concerned about due to its ability to outcompete native SAV we are collectively trying to protect and restore. APNEP SAV Team member Rob Emens with the [NC Dept of Environmental Quality Aquatic Weed Control Program](#) (AWCP) has been working with the Town of Kill Devil Hills on controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Kitty Hawk Bay.

Management strategies include limiting the density of milfoil with targeted herbicide applications, routine monitoring of growth, reducing nutrient input from stormwater and wastewater, and raising awareness about the value and importance of native SAV. APNEP also works closely with the AWCP and other partners to advance [North Carolina's Aquatic Nuisance Species \(ANS\) Management Plan](#).

[Learn more](#)

What We're Reading

- [Lionfish an example of needed invasive species awareness](#) (*Coastal Review Online*)
- [NC's Salt Marshes Hold 64 Million Tons of CO₂; What Happens After They Die?](#) (*Public News Service*)
- [Finding the Tipping Point for Coastal Wetlands](#) (*Duke Research Blog*)



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